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GENERAL DISCUSSION ON PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21, FOCUSING ON THE CROSS-SECTORAL COMPONENTS OF AGENDA 21 AND THE CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF SUSTAINABILITY

Progress in the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Commission on Sustainable Development taken at its second session

Report of the Secretary-General

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission on Sustainable Development at its second session requested the Secretary-General to keep it informed on the action taken and progress achieved in the implementation of its decisions and recommendations. In accordance with its multi-year programme of work, the Commission reviews cross-sectoral clusters of Agenda 21 1/ on an annual basis. Information on the action taken to implement the Commission's conclusions and recommendations adopted last year in relation to those thematic clusters could be found in relevant reports of the Secretary-General prepared for the third session of the Commission.

2. The present report focuses on sectoral clusters of Agenda 21 that were reviewed in 1994, namely, health, human settlements and freshwater; and toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes. It was prepared on the basis of inputs from organizations of the United Nations system, acting as the task managers for respective chapters of Agenda 21, specifically the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), responses from which have been drafted in consultation with other interested agencies and organizations. This report mainly addresses action taken so far at the international level. More detailed information and analysis of action taken and progress achieved at the national and other levels, as well as by major groups, will be presented within the context of the 1997 comprehensive review of the implementation of Agenda 21.

I. CHAPTER 6 OF AGENDA 21: PROTECTING AND PROMOTING HUMAN HEALTH

A. Health for All and Agenda 21

3. The Executive Board of WHO was informed in January 1995 of WHO's role as task manager for health, within the context of the subject of health, environment and sustainable development. The report to the Board (EB95/INF.DOC./17) highlighted the links between Agenda 21 and the update of the Global Strategy for Health for All by the Year 2000 that WHO is currently undertaking. It also identified the four lines of reform - involving the community, health services, other sectors, and national decision-making - for Governments to pursue in order to bring health into their national plans for sustainable development, as outlined in the task manager's report to the Commission on Sustainable Development. The Board was further informed that the Commission had recognized the lines of reform as constituting a suitable programme for Governments to pursue.

4. Renewal of the Strategy for Health for All is being undertaken through a consultation process involving WHO member States and other partners in health development. As this process overlaps in time with the activities being undertaken by WHO as task manager for health, the importance of bringing to the attention of all those involved in the consultation process progress achieved in implementing Agenda 21 has been particularly stressed.

B. Sustainable development planning at the country level

5. A major outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development has been the agreement that countries should prepare and implement national plans for sustainable development. This presents a challenge to and an opportunity for the health and environment sectors, and those entities whose activities affect health, with respect to ensuring that health and environment considerations are adequately dealt with. A major interregional initiative, implemented by WHO, jointly with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), consists in promoting the incorporation of health-and-environment-related concerns into the preparation of national plans for sustainable development.

6. The progress achieved so far has been promising. The interregional initiative has served to raise awareness of health-and-environment-related issues, strengthened the health-sector role in development planning, and resulted in the preparation and adoption of firm plans for health-and-environment-related actions. By the end of 1994, the initiative included 12 countries, and plans are to expand it by another 8-10 countries during 1995. Guidelines based on these experiences will be prepared in 1995.

7. The involvement of WHO and UNDP is not limited to the preparation of plans; these provide a basis for future technical cooperation. The initiative also promotes the participation of other international organizations concerned. For this purpose, a round-table meeting is being organized in 1995 involving the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat, UNDP and WHO.

8. UNDP, WHO and the Government of Italy have initiated a programme on the Promotion of Sustainable Human Development at the Local Level. This programme is concerned with the question of how to integrate, in collaboration with the other United Nations bodies at the country/operational level, the recommendations of Agenda 21 and other global instruments concerned with human development, including those that will emerge from the World Summit for Social Development.

9. WHO regional initiatives are important in relating health more closely to the environment within the context of sustainable development. One such initiative was the creation of an Environmental Health Action Plan for Europe in the countries of the European region. In the region of the Americas, preparatory work for a Pan-American Conference on Health and the Environment in Sustainable Development is under way.

C. Intersectoral collaboration at the global level

10. Various inter-agency collaborative mechanisms relevant to Agenda 21 are being reviewed and strengthened. Earthwatch is being strengthened and new approaches to health-and-environment-related analysis for decision-making are being developed jointly with the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat, UNEP and other bodies. The Joint WHO/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)/UNEP/United Nations Centre for Human

Settlements (Habitat) Panel of Vectors on Environment Management for Vector Control (PEEM) is undergoing an independent review with one of the terms of reference calling for a consideration of opportunities for a more proactive role of PEEM in the implementation of the recommendations contained in Agenda 21.

11. WHO is contributing health indicators to be used by the Commission for Sustainable Development. HEDLAMP (Health and Environment Data Linkage Analysis and Monitoring Project) is developing methodology for linking health and environment data so as to better estimate the health effects of environmental pollution. Joint policy research on the use of economic instruments for environmental health protection has been started with the World Bank. In addition, new training programmes and materials for environmental health are being developed jointly with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and UNEP. Finally, with respect to the Commission priority area concerning newly emerging infectious diseases and their possible linkages, the WHO Executive Board in January 1995 adopted resolution EB95.R12 in which the Board requested the Director-General of WHO, inter alia, to coordinate WHO's initiative on new, emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases in cooperation with other specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, bilateral development agencies, non-governmental organizations, member States, and other groups concerned.

II. CHAPTER 7 OF AGENDA 21: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT

A. Strategic focus

12. Follow-up actions to the decision on human settlements adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its second session 2/ (chapter 7 of Agenda 21) have been concentrated within the following five critical areas: (a) financing sustainable human settlements development; (b) sustainable land resource management for human settlements; (c) integrated environment upgrading demonstration projects; (d) promoting "best practices" in human settlements delivery mechanisms; and (e) changing consumption patterns in human settlements. In accordance with the Commission's recommendations, those follow-up actions are being developed as an integral part of the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (the "City Summit", Istanbul, 1996).

B. Specific initiatives

1. Financing sustainable human settlement development

13. Initiatives in this area focus on building improved global-to-local financial instruments, mechanisms and partnership arrangements to stimulate the flow of financial resources for the upgrading and development of settlements. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) has initiated a process of pulling together innovations related to new financial instruments, mechanisms and arrangements in each region. During 1995, the Centre will bring

this knowledge and expertise together in order to develop funding strategies to be directly linked to and incorporated within the global plan of action of Habitat II, with the aim of facilitating clear policy messages, recommendations and action plans for each of the actors involved (Governments, financial institutions and international investors and borrowers as change agents). Private sector financial innovators, the World Bank, the regional development banks, local authority associations, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations are the Centre's partners in this process.

2. Sustainable land-use planning and management for human settlements

14. Initiatives in this area build upon the land management component of two ongoing inter-agency projects, namely the Urban Management Programme and Sustainable Cities Programme. During 1995, a series of regional consultations involving leaders and officials from the governmental and non-governmental sectors will formulate practical recommendations on improving the functioning of land markets and expanding security of tenure in urban areas. An effort is also being pursued to develop synergy between this work and chapter 10 of Agenda 21, including cooperation with UNEP, FAO and the World Bank.

3. Integrated environmental upgrading demonstration projects for human settlements

15. The Sustainable Cities Programme has launched demonstration projects in Dar es Salaam, Accra, Ibadan, Tunis, Ismailia, Madras, Katowice and Concepción. Programme activities in these cities have already led to tangible results, particularly with regard to stimulating national initiatives. For example, the Sustainable Dar es Salaam Programme has widened the basis of participation in development-related decision-making and in mobilizing a wealth of local resources through new partnerships among the public, private, and community sectors. The programme has attracted collaboration from close to 20 international organizations including UNDP, the World Bank, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), and stimulated the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, with support from the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and UNDP, to launch a national programme for sustainable urban development in eight intermediate cities.

16. Similarly, the Sustainable Ismailia Programme has developed coordinated strategies and capital investment proposals, through its working groups on agriculture in the urban fringe, on rehabilitating and managing the fisheries and tourism potentials of Lake Timsah, on environmentally safe agro-industry and on urban growth patterns. The success of the broad-based participatory approaches of the project encouraged the Government of Egypt to replicate the lessons learned in other urban centres. The Sustainable Concepción Programme has initiated a wide-based participatory project on industrial risk assessment and reduction focusing on the local petrochemical industry and another similarly participatory project on coastal area management focusing on protection of jobs

in the fisheries and tourism sectors (both in partnership with UNEP). The Government of Chile has formally recognized the project as a model for decentralizing urban environment/development-related decision-making and has allocated funding to replicate it in other urban centres.

4. Promotion of best practices

17. A joint project of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) and the Commission on Sustainable Development secretariat has produced a set of case-studies on the local Agenda 21 implementation process. The case-studies represent a step towards the publication of a volume (to be called Local Authorities: Custodians of the Urban Environment) that is being prepared for the Istanbul Conference. The volume will illustrate the role of local authorities and their associations in promoting sustainable urban development and growth in both developed and developing countries and serve as a practical guide on the opportunities and modalities for future partnerships. A recent major international conference on "Best Practices for Improving the Living Environment" was also organized in partnership with Dubai municipality (Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 2-5 April 1995).

18. The Urban Management and Sustainable Cities Programmes are documenting local lessons of operational experience in environmental planning and management and translating them into guidebooks with performance indicators. These efforts aim at developing an electronic catalogue of "best practice" accessible worldwide. The programme is using "urban agriculture" as a coordinated strategy for income-generation and environmental management. In addition, the Urban Indicators Programme (Habitat/World Bank) is providing the umbrella for the development of appropriate indicators for urban monitoring and for measuring the environmental performance of cities; it includes the World Resources Institute, UNEP, WHO, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Inter-agency Committee on Sustainable Development as partners. These initiatives are expected to help ensure that the country reports for Habitat II are based on quantitative, policy-sensitive performance indicators.

5. Changing consumption patterns in human settlements

19. Initiatives towards changing human settlement production and consumption patterns are specifically focused on two critical areas: urban transport and energy, and urban water. The Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) organized an Expert Group Meeting on Energy, Environment and Urban Areas: Putting Agenda 21 into Action, with support from the Governments of the Netherlands and Sweden. The meeting formulated strategies for changing energy consumption and production patterns so that they represent more sustainable levels. To operationalize the strategies, the Centre plans to launch (with DANIDA) demonstration projects that focus on internalizing the environmental and social costs of energy and transport and improving the efficiency of energy use by transport, households and the construction sector. In the area of urban water, the Centre has assisted the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC)

Subcommittee on Water Resources and such non-governmental bodies as the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council to develop new strategies for urban water resources management. Demonstration projects are being implemented by the Centre's Settlement Infrastructure Environment Programme in selected countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America, focusing on demand management of urban water-supply services to ensure more equitable and sustainable consumption patterns.

C. Inter-agency collaboration

20. The Centre has pursued strategic alliances with other organizations in order to broaden collaboration, leading to joint programming and leveraging of the use of limited resources. The open-ended Forum for Sustainable Urban Development, which the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) agreed to establish, is one vehicle for developing such joint programming mechanisms. The Centre will serve initially as the ad hoc secretariat for the Forum and will continue to support its work. One aim of the Forum will be to expand collaborative programming with non-governmental organizations and the private sector and to strengthen inter-agency actions, including multi-agency programming focusing on the urban dimension of the various action programmes of Agenda 21. The next meeting of the Forum is scheduled for May 1995 in connection with the second session of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat II.

III. CHAPTER 18 OF AGENDA 21: PROTECTION OF THE QUALITY AND SUPPLY OF FRESHWATER RESOURCES

21. The Commission on Sustainable Development, at its second session, welcomed the work carried out by the organizations of the United Nations system through the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources with regard to the systematic collection and analysis of information. 3/ The Commission also urged UNEP, FAO, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), WHO, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and UNESCO, in collaboration with UNDP, the World Bank and other relevant United Nations bodies, as well as non-governmental organizations, to strengthen their efforts towards a comprehensive assessment of freshwater resources, with the aim of identifying the availability of such resources, making projections of future needs, and identifying problems to be considered by the special session of the General Assembly in 1997. 4/

22. In addition, the Commission invited Governments to cooperate actively with technical inputs to the process, taking into account the need for support for the full participation of developing countries, and welcomed the offer of the Government of Sweden to contribute by preparing a preliminary assessment of freshwater. 5/ The results of the work outlined above are to be reviewed by the Commission at its 1997 session.

23. Pursuant to the decision of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources, at its fifteenth session, held in Washington, D.C., from 21 to 23 September 1994, agreed to the establishment of a

core group of its member organizations composed of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat, UNEP, UNESCO, FAO, WHO, WMO and UNIDO to work with the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) in the implementation of the project. Other members of the Subcommittee would be invited to participate in the core group as needed. Following a joint meeting of the members of the Subcommittee with representatives of SEI, on 23 September 1994, it was agreed that a Steering Committee for the Comprehensive Assessment of the Freshwater Resources of the World would be constituted and composed of SEI and the core group of organizations named above.

24. The first meeting of the Steering Committee was held at FAO headquarters in Rome, on 1 and 2 December 1994, and a second meeting was also held at FAO headquarters, from 15 to 17 February 1993. The approach and an outline to the report have been formulated. An agreement on a distribution of functions among the various United Nations organizations involved and SEI has also been reached.

25. The report to the Commission on Sustainable Development will include a set of policy options based on an assessment of the state of the freshwater resources of the world, and will be supported by a number of technical documents to substantiate the findings outlined in the main report.

26. As currently envisaged, the report will provide a background to the approaches to assessment, followed by a synthesis of the knowledge of the availability, quality and variability of, and the demand for, freshwater. Based on this information, the report will identify current problems and future trends with a view to proposing strategies for the sustainable development of freshwater resources. It is envisaged that an expert group is to be organized jointly by WMO and UNESCO in the latter part of 1995 in order to assess the extent and reliability of data with regard to water resources availability and quality and to assist in drawing up conclusions from those data. SEI, in cooperation with UNEP and other organizations of the United Nations system, will prepare scenarios for future trends based on various assumptions concerning the main driving force related to the development, use, conservation and management of water resources, including analysis of issues and solutions in specific river basins. A preliminary report of findings and recommendations will be submitted to the Committee on Natural Resources at its third session in the spring of 1996.

27. Financial resources have been allocated by the Government of Sweden in support of the work to be carried out by SEI. The organizations of the United Nations system concerned are also devoting available resources towards the implementation of the project. Still, the project is severely hampered by the lack of financial resources. This is particularly the case with regard to the organization of the above-mentioned expert group.

IV. CHAPTER 19 OF AGENDA 21: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF TOXIC CHEMICALS

A. Enhanced international cooperation and coordination

1. United Nations bodies and other international organizations

28. The policy basis for a mechanism to promote coordination of the policies and activities of United Nations bodies and other international organizations on the environmentally sound management of chemicals has been agreed upon following extensive consultations among the secretariats of UNEP, ILO, FAO, WHO, UNIDO and OECD. A memorandum of understanding that provides the legal basis for the Inter-organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) is expected to be signed by all during the first half of 1995. An Inter-organization Coordinating Committee (IOCC) has been established to ensure coordination of activities on the sound management of chemicals carried out by the organizations. Other specific cooperative agreements would be drawn up for joint scientific and technical activities to support the implementation of sound management of chemicals with other bodies such as the Commission of the European Union (CEU).

29. As a response to the request of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to expand and accelerate international assessment of chemical risks, a joint International Programme on Chemical Safety(IPCS)/OECD consultation on priority chemicals and related issues was held in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, United States of America, 30 January-3 February 1995. The consultation made a number of recommendations for action, including, inter alia, the following: (a) IPCS should continue to produce the Environmental Health Criteria documents as the "standard" comprehensive evaluation documents; (b) better understanding of the requirements of developing countries and countries with economies in transition was needed in order for international evaluation documents to be made more useful in guiding risk management decisions; (c) the further development of inventories of review documents and their collection, including the joint IRPTC/UNEP-European Chemical Industry Ecology and Toxicology Centre (ECETOC) inventory, should be strongly supported; (d) IPCS should develop and implement, in collaboration with countries, a pilot project to establish the process for producing short international evaluation documents based on national evaluations and to facilitate international review, IPCS and OECD were invited to develop a common format for evaluation documents.

30. In July 1994, UNEP established a joint project with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat to improve the ability of the international community to respond to chemical accidents. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) is cooperating with OECD to extend to ECE countries with economies in transition systems and practices for the safe handling of chemicals established by OECD.

2. Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS)

31. Following the establishment of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS), the first meeting of the Inter-sessional Group will take place in Bruges, Belgium, 20-23 March 1995, and the second meeting in Australia in early 1996. The draft agenda for the first meeting covers, inter alia, the following points: Forum activities and projections; evaluation procedures for chemicals; national profiles on management of chemicals; harmonization of classification and labelling of chemicals; risk reduction programmes; Prior Informed Consent (PIC); and cooperation amongst Inter-sessional Group countries. Informal consultations between the President of the Forum and non-governmental organizations were held in November 1994 to determine the contributions of non-governmental organizations on behalf of the priorities for action established by the Forum in April 1994 for the implementation of chapter 19 of Agenda 21. The second meeting of the Forum will be held before the special session of the General Assembly in 1997.

B. Implementation of the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure

32. UNEP and FAO are taking further steps to implement the voluntary PIC procedure, evaluate and address problems associated with it, and consult with Governments on modalities for the development of an effective legally binding instrument for the implementation of the procedure. The elements for a legally binding instrument for the application of PIC were circulated to all Governments for comments in July 1994. The one hundred seventh session of the Council of FAO agreed that FAO should proceed with the preparation of a draft legally binding instrument on the operation of the PIC procedure in cooperation with other international and non-governmental organizations. An inter-agency meeting on this subject was held on 30 November 1994, and informal government consultations were held on 1 and 2 December 1994 in Geneva. This meeting referenced the need to take into account the provisions of and experiences from other international conventions and instruments that related to export notification such as the ILO Chemicals Convention, 1990 (No. 170), the ILO Convention on the prevention of major industrial accidents, 1993 (No. 174). The meeting suggested that the Executive Director of UNEP consider seeking a mandate from the eighteenth regular session of the Governing Council of UNEP in May 1995, to start negotiations for the development of a legally binding instrument for the application of the PIC procedure, with a view to possibly concluding the process by 1997. UNEP initiated discussions with the Governments of Denmark and Malaysia related to the proposal to ban export of domestically prohibited chemicals from OECD to non-OECD countries, as well as the exploration of ways and means to include this proposal within the overall context of negotiations on a legally binding instrument on PIC.

33. UNEP and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), in close cooperation with FAO, have conducted regional seminars to strengthen capabilities in developing countries to implement the PIC procedure. This training programme has been completed in the South-East Asian and Pacific region, and activities during the remainder of 1995 will mainly take place in the Latin American and the Caribbean region and in the African region. These regional seminars together with subregional workshops on PIC and related

chemical management issues have contributed to the facilitation of inter-agency and ministerial cooperation at the national level.

C. Code of Ethics on the International Trade in Chemicals

34. The Code of Ethics on the International Trade in Chemicals has been widely distributed to international and national chemical industry associations, other private sector parties, Governments and intergovernmental organizations. The European Chemical Industry Council has already announced its intention of endorsing the Code. UNEP will monitor adherence to and implementation of the Code. UNEP will, in 1996, organize a forum where compliance and the results obtained in achieving the major objectives of the Code are to be discussed.

D. Action to address the environmental and health impacts of chemicals

35. Several initiatives and actions have been undertaken as regards the issue of addressing the health and environmental impacts of chemicals, in particular human exposure to lead. The "Summit of the Americas" held in Miami, Florida, United States, in December 1994, resulted in declarations supporting, inter alia, government actions in relation to chemical safety and the objectives in chapter 19 of Agenda 21, among them actions regarding pesticides, lead contamination, pollution prevention, risk reduction, waste, air and water quality, and public awareness, as well as implementation of the PIC procedure. The United States and Mexico also took the initiative in organizing a meeting, held on 14 and 15 March 1995 in Washington, D.C., on the possibilities of reducing exposure of humans and the environment to lead, in particular through the phasing out of leaded gasoline. Recommendations of a recently held IPCS Environmental Health Criteria Task Group meeting on inorganic lead included a set of public health measures directed towards reduction and prevention of exposure to lead, inter alia, concerning the use of lead in gasoline, paints, food containers, water treatment and distribution systems, agriculture, and folk remedies and cosmetics. Within the ECE CHEMISEED programme an International Workshop on Soil Decontamination and Remediation Technologies will be held in Paris from 5 to 7 December 1995.

E. Identification of persistent and bio-accumulative chemicals with a view to phasing out or banning such chemicals

36. The "International Experts Meeting on Persistent Organic Pollutants: Towards Global Action", sponsored jointly by Canada and the Philippines, will take place 4 to 8 June 1995 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

V. CHAPTER 20 OF AGENDA 21: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF HAZARDOUS WASTES, INCLUDING THE PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN HAZARDOUS WASTES

A. Development, dissemination and application of an integrated cleaner production approach

1. Increased information exchange

37. Illustrative case-studies of successful implementation of cleaner production in several industry sectors in various countries have been published, along with a UNEP booklet on Government Strategies and Policies for Cleaner Production. The collection and dissemination of information is facilitated through the International Cleaner Production Information Clearing House and the publication of the Cleaner Production newsletter; a query-response service; and the development of networks of international experts in various sectors. UNEP and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) have joined forces to develop information activities in the field of ecolabelling, and UNIDO is cooperating by addressing this issue on an industry sector basis.

2. Capacity-building

38. UNIDO, jointly with UNEP and with the support of bilateral donors, has supported the establishment of eight National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPC): in Brazil, China, the Czech Republic, India, Mexico, Slovakia, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe. A network between NCPCs and similar centres funded by other organizations has been established to exchange information and experiences. Training activities have been undertaken by UNEP and UNIDO within the framework of the NCPCs and in response to requests from Governments. "Training the trainers" activities have been launched jointly by UNEP, UNIDO, ILO and WHO, including a cleaner production training package.

3. Demonstration projects

39. Three demonstration projects in the cement and pulp and paper industries are being finalized in Egypt, Senegal and Zimbabwe. A series of demonstration projects, showing the benefits of low-cost or no-additional-cost cleaner production options, have been undertaken with UNEP, the World Bank, and the Chinese National Environmental Protection Agency. The World Bank and UNIDO are conducting similar activities in India.

4. Cleaner Production Programme review and inter-agency cooperation

40. OECD, in cooperation with UNIDO and UNEP, organized the workshop on "Development Assistance and Technology Cooperation for Cleaner Production in Developing Countries", 27 to 29 September 1994, to investigate how donor countries could better contribute to the development of cleaner production. The Government of Poland hosted the third high-level advisory seminar on cleaner

production, during which progress in this area was evaluated and future orientations of the programme were discussed. The World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), have reviewed or are in the process of reviewing their policies so as to ensure that the investments they support are aimed at cleaner production.

B. Ratification or accession to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal

41. As of 1 March 1995, 81 States and the European Union had ratified or acceded to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. The secretariat of the Convention (SBC) will undertake a study on the monitoring of implementation of and compliance with the obligations set out by the Basel Convention and will report on this to the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties (September 1995). At this meeting, SBC will also submit the final version of the "Manual for the Implementation of the Basel Convention". A workshop for Arabic-speaking countries on the implementation of the Basel Convention at the regional level was held in Cairo, 11 to 13 March 1995.

42. For 1994, US$ 937,900 was approved for the Technical Assistance Trust Fund but only US$ 264,491 was collected. For 1995, US$ 1,297,240 was approved but to date no contributions have been received.

C. Capacity-building for hazardous waste management

43. As of today, there are 59 focal points and 61 competent authorities to deal with hazardous wastes. The revised model national legislation will be submitted to the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. The set of three technical guidelines prepared by the Technical Working Group of the Basel Convention, on disposal operations, has been adopted provisionally by the Conference of the Parties and is being distributed widely to both Parties and non-Parties to the Convention. SBC provided technical assistance related to national legislation to Croatia and Egypt and technical assistance on assessment and environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes to Antigua and Barbuda, Cape Verde, Saint Lucia, Senegal and Trinidad and Tobago. Feasibility studies, including selection of possible sites, for the establishment of regional and subregional centres for training and technology transfer are being considered. To date, studies have been initiated in Latin America and the Caribbean, and another one will be undertaken for Arabic-speaking countries in western Asia and northern Africa.

44. A number of training activities, seminars and workshops have been undertaken by United Nations organizations (WHO, ILO, UNEP, UNIDO) and the regional commissions, specifically dealing with, or including a component on, hazardous waste management, and a new technology assessment programme has been developed by UNEP. WHO has undertaken activities on clinical/medical wastes.

D. Management of transboundary movements and prevention of illegal traffic in hazardous wastes

45. SBC has undertaken the update of the Compilation of the Provisions of National Legislation related to the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and to the Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous Wastes, as well as assisted several Parties in developing their national and/or domestic legislation. Two sessions of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts have been held to consider and develop a draft protocol on liability and compensation for damage resulting from the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and their disposal. The Technical Working Group at its sixth session finalized the preparation of the draft paper on the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal destined for recovery operations for adoption by the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties. SBC cooperated during 1994 with various United Nations and other regional commissions, organizations and conventions to prevent illegal traffic, and contributed to the "Meeting to Draft the Treaty Banning Hazardous and Toxic Wastes within the South Pacific" (Suva, July 1994). An international workshop concerning the decision taken by the Parties banning transboundary movement of wastes for final disposal and recycling from OECD to non-OECD countries was held in Dakar, 15 to 17 March 1995.

E. Application of norms by the military establishment relating to hazardous wastes

46. A meeting on military activities and the environment, including hazardous wastes, is being organized by UNEP in cooperation with ECE and will be hosted by the Government of Sweden, 27 to 30 June 1995.

VI. CHAPTER 22 OF AGENDA 21: ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE AND SOUND MANAGEMENT OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE

A. Background

47. At its second session in May 1994, the Commission on Sustainable Development called for various actions on the part of Governments and the international community in the following areas: further support for development of international standards for radioactive waste management; strengthening of cooperation and provision of assistance to economies in transition in solving their urgent and specific problems due to improper treatment and disposal with regard to radioactive wastes; technical and financial assistance to developing countries in capacity-building and developing of improved procedures for the management and safe disposal of radioactive wastes. 6/ Progress made in these areas is described below.

B. Further development of international standards for radioactive waste management

48. The Radioactive Waste Safety Standards (RADWASS) programme of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was initiated in 1991 in response to requests from member States to demonstrate that a harmonized approach to the safe and environmentally sound management of radioactive wastes exists at the international level. RADWASS consists of a hierarchy of documents headed by one on "Safety Fundamentals", to be followed by six Safety Standards covering "Planning", "Pre-disposal", "Near-surface Disposal", "Geological Disposal", "Uranium-Thorium Mining and Milling Waste" and "Decommissioning/Environmental Restoration". Safety Guides and Safety Practices will also be included in the series. Two of these documents, namely the "Safety Fundamentals" document (entitled "The Principles of Radioactive Waste Management") and Safety Standard S-1 (entitled "Establishing a National System for Radioactive Waste Management"), have been submitted to the IAEA Board of Governors for approval. Three other Safety Standards will be submitted to the Board in September 1995.

49. In September 1994, IAEA's General Conference, in resolution GC(XXXVIII)/RES/6 on "Measures to resolve international radioactive waste management issues", invited the Board of Governors and the Director-General to commence preparations for a convention on the safety of radioactive waste management. An open-ended expert group met in February 1995 to examine questions relating to the scope of such a convention, and its basic concept and framework, as well as to specific elements to be included.

50. The amendments to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Waste and Other Matter (London Convention, 1972) for the prohibition of all radioactive waste dumping at sea entered into force on 20 February 1994 for all Contracting Parties except the Russian Federation which, in its declaration of non-acceptance, stated that it would continue its endeavours to ensure that the sea was not polluted by the dumping of wastes and other matter. IAEA, in support of the London Convention 1972, administers the International Arctic Seas Assessment Project (IASAP), the aim of which is to evaluate the health and environmental risks posed by the dumping of radioactive wastes in the Arctic seas. A report on the results of the project will be submitted to the Contracting Parties in 1996. An investigatory cruise to the sites of radioactive waste dumping in the Sea of Japan was undertaken in 1994 by Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation and IAEA. The joint report will be available in March 1995.

51. With regard to emergency preparedness and response aspects of the marine carriage of nuclear material under the IAEA/International Maritime Organization (IMO)/UNEP Irradiated Nuclear Fuel (INF) Code, IAEA, in cooperation with IMO, is expediting revision of its document on emergency response during transport of radioactive material (Safety Series, No. 87). The revision process began at a meeting of the Standing Advisory Group on the Safe Transport of Radioactive Materials (SAGSTRAM) in March 1995.

C. Cooperation and assistance to economies in transition

52. In recognition of the severe environmental problems facing member States in Central and Eastern Europe, IAEA has organized three workshops on environmental restoration. In 1995, special emphasis will be given to contamination from uranium mining and milling activities. IAEA also offers advisory services and international peer reviews of all radioactive waste management activities, including environmental impact assessment.

53. At the request of the Joint Council of the Nordic Countries, IAEA will be organizing in 1995 a review of the problems connected with the management and storage of radioactive waste and spent fuel in the Russian Federation, with a view to setting priorities for future cooperation.

D. Technical and financial assistance to developing countries, particularly in capacity-building

54. IAEA's ongoing training programme on radioactive waste management has continued at the rate of three to four training courses a year, each of four weeks' duration and involving some 30 persons at different locations throughout the world. Helping developing countries establish radioactive waste management capacity is a priority activity and one of the main objectives of the Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Programme (WAMAP). During 1994, WAMAP missions were conducted in Saudi Arabia, Uruguay, Lebanon and the United Arab Emirates. On request, the Agency will assist developing countries to develop action plans based on needs in the area of radiation safety and waste management and aimed at developing infrastructure elements in a reasonable period of time.

E. International cooperation

55. An International Symposium on Environmental Impact of Radioactive Releases will review, in May 1995, the radiological and environmental impacts of radioactive releases that have caused contamination of terrestrial and aquatic environments; the progress in developing, applying and validating methodologies for assessing environmental impacts; and the methods and criteria for environmental restoration. In September 1995, the Fifth International Conference on Radioactive Waste Management and Environmental Remediation will be organized in cooperation with the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the European Union and the Nuclear Energy Agency of OECD in Berlin, Germany.

56. A technical report on Assessment and Comparison of Waste Management System Costs for Nuclear and other Energy Sources was published in 1994.

Notes

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

2/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 13 (E/1994/33/Rev.1), chap. I, sect. D.

3/ Ibid., para. 147.

4/ Ibid., para. 148.

5/ Ibid., para. 150.

6/ Ibid., sect. E, paras. 213 and 214.